

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

WILBUR LANN PITTMAN,
CDCR #F-64353,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ESPINO, et al.,

Defendants.

Civil No. 10-0908 WQH (BLM)

ORDER:

**(1) DENYING MOTION TO
PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*
AS BARRED BY 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g)
[Doc. No. 2]**

AND

**(2) DISMISSING CASE FOR
FAILURE TO PAY FILING
FEE REQUIRED BY
28 U.S.C. § 1914(a)**

Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding pro se and currently incarcerated at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco, California, has filed a civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff has not prepaid the civil filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a); instead, he has submitted a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (“IFP”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) [Doc. No. 2].

I. Motion to Proceed IFP

Section 1915 of Title 28 of the United States Code allows certain litigants to pursue civil litigation IFP, that is, without the full prepayment of fees or costs. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2).

1 However, the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”) amended section 1915 to preclude the
2 privilege to proceed IFP:

3 . . . if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior occasions, while
4 incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal
5 in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds
6 that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which
relief can be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger
of serious physical injury.

7 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). “This subdivision is commonly known as the ‘three strikes’ provision.”
8 *Andrews v. King*, 398 F.3d 1113, 1116 n.1 (9th Cir. 2005) (hereafter “*Andrews*”). “Pursuant to
9 § 1915(g), a prisoner with three strikes or more cannot proceed IFP.” *Id.*; *see also Andrews v.*
10 *Cervantes*, 493 F.3d 1047, 1052 (9th Cir. 2007) (hereafter “*Cervantes*”) (under the PLRA,
11 “[p]risoners who have repeatedly brought unsuccessful suits may entirely be barred from IFP
12 status under the three strikes rule[.]”). The objective of the PLRA is to further “the
13 congressional goal of reducing frivolous prisoner litigation in federal court.” *Tierney v. Kupers*,
14 128 F.3d 1310, 1312 (9th Cir. 1997).

15 “Strikes are prior cases or appeals, brought while the plaintiff was a prisoner, which were
16 dismissed on the ground that they were frivolous, malicious, or failed to state a claim,”
17 *Andrews*, 398 F.3d at 1116 n.1 (internal quotations omitted), “even if the district court styles
18 such dismissal as a denial of the prisoner’s application to file the action without prepayment of
19 the full filing fee.” *O’Neal v. Price*, 531 F.3d 1146, 1153 (9th Cir. 2008). Once a prisoner has
20 accumulated three strikes, he is prohibited by section 1915(g) from pursuing any other IFP
21 action in federal court unless he can show he is facing “imminent danger of serious physical
22 injury.” *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g); *Cervantes*, 493 F.3d at 1051-52 (noting § 1915(g)’s exception
23 for IFP complaints which “make[] a plausible allegation that the prisoner faced ‘imminent
24 danger of serious physical injury’ at the time of filing.”).

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1 **II. Application of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g)**

2 As an initial matter, the Court has carefully reviewed Plaintiff's Complaint and has
3 ascertained that there is no "plausible allegation" to suggest Plaintiff "faced 'imminent danger
4 of serious physical injury' at the time of filing." *Cervantes*, 493 F.3d at 1055 (quoting 28
5 U.S.C. § 1915(g)). In fact, Plaintiff's pleading contains no allegations whatsoever—it simply
6 lists various prison officials as defendants.

7 A court "may take notice of proceedings in other courts, both within and without the
8 federal judicial system, if those proceedings have a direct relation to matters at issue." *Bias*
9 *v. Moynihan*, 508 F.3d 1212, 1225 (9th Cir. 2007) (quoting *Bennett v. Medtronic, Inc.*, 285 F.3d
10 801, 803 n.2 (9th Cir. 2002)); *see also United States ex rel. Robinson Rancheria Citizens*
11 *Council v. Borneo, Inc.*, 971 F.2d 244, 248 (9th Cir. 1992). Thus, this Court takes judicial
12 notice that Plaintiff has had at *least* three prisoner civil actions dismissed on the grounds that
13 they were frivolous, malicious, or failed to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.¹

14 They are:

- 15 1) *Pittman v. Van Stralen, et al.*, Civil Case No. 08-1747 (PLA) (C.D. Cal. Dec. 16,
16 2008 Order denying motion to proceed IFP and finding Complaint to be legally
17 and/or patently frivolous) (strike one);
- 18 2) *Pittman v. Stacie*, Civil Case No. 08-1900 (PLA) (C.D. Cal. Jan. 14, 2009 Order
19 denying motion to proceed IFP and finding Complaint to be legally and/or
20 patently frivolous) (strike two); and
- 21 3) *Pittman v. Martel*, Civil Case No. 08-1899 (PLA) (C.D. Cal. Jan. 14, 2009 Order
22 denying motion to proceed IFP and finding Complaint to be legally and/or
23 patently frivolous) (strike three).

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28 ¹ The Court also notes that according to PACER, Plaintiff has filed 136 civil rights actions in the Central, Southern and Eastern Districts of California since November 2, 2008.

Accordingly, because Plaintiff has, while incarcerated, accumulated at least three “strikes” pursuant to § 1915(g), and he fails to make a “plausible allegation” that he faced imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time he filed his Complaint, he is not entitled to the privilege of proceeding IFP in this action. *See Cervantes*, 493 F.3d at 1055; *Rodriguez*, 169 F.3d at 1180 (finding that 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) “does not prevent all prisoners from accessing the courts; it only precludes prisoners with a history of abusing the legal system from continuing to abuse it while enjoying IFP status”); *see also Franklin v. Murphy*, 745 F.2d 1221, 1231 (9th Cir. 1984) (“[C]ourt permission to proceed IFP is itself a matter of privilege and not right.”).

III. Conclusion and Order

For the reasons set forth above, the Court hereby:

- 1) **DENIES** Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed IFP [Doc. No. 2] pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g);
- 2) **DISMISSES** this action without prejudice for failure to pay the \$350 civil filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a), and
- 3) **CERTIFIES** that an IFP appeal from this Order would be frivolous and therefore, would not be taken in good faith pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3). *See Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962); *Gardner v. Pogue*, 558 F.2d 548, 550 (9th Cir. 1977) (indigent appellant is permitted to proceed IFP on appeal only if appeal would not be frivolous).

The Clerk shall close the file.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: May 10, 2010



WILLIAM Q. HAYES
United States District Judge